



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

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Three Haitian Nationals Plead Guilty to Hostage Taking of American Citizen

WASHINGTON - Three Haitian nationals have pleaded guilty to hostage taking charges in connection with the kidnaping of a naturalized American citizen in 2007, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and Jonathan I. Soloman, Supervisory Special Agent in Charge of the Miami Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced today.

On February 26, 2009, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Lucson Renaldo Destine, 23, Rochel Succes, 23, and Richard Desir Theard, 31, all of Port Au Prince, Haiti, entered guilty pleas to hostage taking, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1203(a), before the Honorable Colleen Kollar-Kotelly. Under the terms of the plea agreement, which is conditioned upon acceptance by the Court, each defendant will be sentenced to 14 years of imprisonment. The sentencings are scheduled for May 2009.

The defendants pleaded guilty to an incident that took place on the evening of April 13, 2007, when the defendants kidnaped an eighteen-year-old naturalized American citizen, at gunpoint as he was waiting to pick up his younger sister from a residence she was visiting in Port Au Prince, Haiti. The victim was taken to a house under construction and held captive there overnight while the kidnapers negotiated with the victim's family for the payment of \$400,000 in US dollars as ransom in exchange for the victim's safe release. The following afternoon, the Anti-Kidnaping Unit of the Haitian National Police and the United Nations Civilian Police rescued the victim at that house, capturing two of the defendants at the scene and the third defendant a short time later.

In announcing the guilty pleas, U.S. Attorney Taylor and Supervisory Special Agent in Charge Solomon commended the excellent work of the lead investigators in the case, FBI Special Agent Carlos Monero of the Miami field office and Special Agent Michael Greene of the Atlanta field office. They also commended the U.S. Embassy in Port Au Prince, Haiti; the Legal Attache Office of the FBI in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; and the outstanding investigative skills of the Anti-Kidnaping Unit of the Haitian National Police and the United Nations Civilian Police, which resulted in the victim's safe rescue and the quick apprehension of the defendants. Finally, they commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Schmidt, who is prosecuting the case.

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